

Message Text

SECRET

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51

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:JGDAY/BJR

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS FLASH

INFO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 022619

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, MARR, GR, US, NATO

SUBJECT:GREECE'S SECURITY RELATIONSHIP WITH US AND NATO:

PROPOSED ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEGOTIATIONS IN FEBRUARY

REF: ATHENS 835

WE CAN UNDERSTAND REASONS WHY BITSIOS DESIRES TO MAKE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT "NEGOTIATIONS" ON GREECE'S SECURITY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. AND NATO, BUT WE STRONGLY PREFER THAT HE AVOID SPECIFYING ANY DATE FOR OPENING OF TALKS IN BRUSSELS FOR REASONS YOU INDICATED IN PARA 4 OF ATHENS 835. THEREFORE, YOU SHOULD INDICATE TO HIM THAT, WHILE WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO HIS MAKING A STATEMENT, WE WOULD PREFER THAT IT BE ALONG FOLLOWING LINES: "ON FEBRUARY 10, THE FIRST ROUND OF TALKS WILL BEGIN IN ATHENS ON THE AGREEMENTS CONCLUDED WITH THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NATO ALLIANCE. SUBSEQUENTLY, NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE HELD IN BRUSSELS ON GREECE'S RELATIONSHIP TO NATO." KISSINGER

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